

Six Months On, And Still No Sandy Hook Report?

Who made the state police king?

State Police Lt. Paul Vance addresses a horde of news people a day after the... (Getty Images)

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Newtown massacre: Still no report

Who made the state police king? Why do they continue to drag their feet in releasing a final report on the investigation into the devastating Dec. 14 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School? Who gave that agency the authority to decide what the public should know and when they should know it?



Last March, peeved because high-ranking state police officers attending law enforcement conferences were leaking details from the massacre investigation that had not been made public, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy demanded an interim report on the status

of the probe. The investigators complied, while stating that a final report on the heinous crime would not be finished until mid-June — at the earliest.

Now we are told by the state police that a final investigative report on Sandy Hook won't be ready until the end of September, more than nine months after the crime was committed.

"Nobody ever said that we had to have it done by a certain time," said the usually professional department spokesman, Lt. J. Paul Vance.

The "hide-the-information" game being played by the police and other state officials is ridiculous. The only suspect in this crime — shooter Adam Lanza, who killed 20 first-graders, six female educators, his mother and himself — is dead. It's almost certain there won't be another arrest. **The police have little to no excuse for dragging this out.** Mr. Malloy, who was helpful in squeezing a status report out of prosecutors in March, is of no help now. He is siding with the secret-keepers.

Indeed, The Courant discovered that *his staff worked behind closed doors, contrary to usual procedure*, with legislative leaders and the chief state's attorney's office to prepare **legislation that would keep a broad swath of normally available information about Sandy Hook secret forever** unless relatives of victims ask for its release. [EDITOR – Some readers may also recall that Sheriffs were stationed *inside* the family homes of the alleged victims, after the alleged shooting, in order apparently to prevent any contact between them and the press.]

The bill hasn't been voted on, and leading lawmakers won't say whether or when it will be.

The penchant for secrecy displayed by the state police, the governor and legislative leaders is deeply troubling. It's obvious they don't trust the public.

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"The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion." -- *Edmond Burke, 1784*

"That rifle hanging on the wall of the working-class flat or labourer's cottage is the symbol of Democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there." -- *George Orwell, The Evening Standard, 8 January 1941.*